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30 JAN 2002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Shigeru WATANABE et al.**

Serial Number: **Not Yet Assigned**

(§ of international application No. PCT/JP01/04591)

Filed: **January 30, 2002**

For: **THERMOELECTRIC POWER GENERATING TIMEPIECE AND CASE
BACK FOR THE SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 30, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 22-24 without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 8 has been amended so as to read as follows:

8. (amended) A thermoelectric power generating timepiece comprising a dial, a movement, and a heat conduction sheet, installed within a hermetically enclosed space, defined by a case made of metal with a glass fixedly attached thereto, and a case back, further comprising a thermoelectric element for serving as a power supply source of said movement, housed in a gap between the heat conduction sheet and said case back,

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wherein said case back comprises a heat conducting part having a high thermal conductivity, formed in a shape larger in outer size than the thermoelectric element, and disposed opposite to the thermoelectric element, and a heat insulating part having a low thermal conductivity, formed so as to be disposed on the outside of the heat conducting part; and

the heat insulating part of said case back is provided with a sloped face gently slanting towards the outer periphery thereof.

Please add the following new claims 25-28:

25. A thermoelectric power generating timepiece according to Claim 8, wherein said heat conducting part of said case back is made of a metallic material, the heat insulating part thereof is made of plastics, and said case back is formed of the metallic material forming the heat conducting part and the plastics forming the heat insulating part by the insert molding method.

26. A thermoelectric power generating timepiece according to Claim 8, wherein said case back is formed by uniting said heat conducting part with said heat insulating part by securing both parts together with screws.

27. A thermoelectric power generating timepiece according to Claim 8, wherein said case back is formed by uniting said heat conducting part with the heat insulating part by screwing threaded grooves, cut in respective joining surfaces thereof, into each other.

28. A thermoelectric power generating timepiece according to Claim 8, wherein said heat insulating part of the case back is made of plastics, and a butting surface part of the heat insulating part, facing said case, is provided with an engagement part made of metal.

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REMARKS

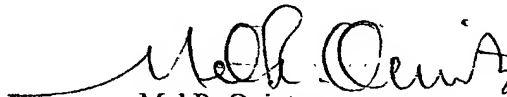
The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.
Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (amended) A thermoelectric power generating timepiece [according to claim 2, wherein] comprising a dial, a movement, and a heat conduction sheet, installed within a hermetically enclosed space, defined by a case made of metal with a glass fixedly attached thereto, and a case back, further comprising a thermoelectric element for serving as a power supply source of said movement, housed in a gap between the heat conduction sheet and said case back,

wherein said case back comprises a heat conducting part having a high thermal conductivity, formed in a shape larger in outer size than the thermoelectric element, and disposed opposite to the thermoelectric element, and a heat insulating part having a low thermal conductivity, formed so as to be disposed on the outside of the heat conducting part; and

the heat insulating part of said case back is provided with a sloped face gently slanting towards the outer periphery thereof.